

NOTES OF THE DAY.

Thirty United States army deserters find refuge in Canada.

Strawberries are selling at \$1.25 a quart in Jacksonville, Fla.

Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, has six cases of small-pox.

A monument will soon be erected to Pocahontas at Jamestown, Va.

Rochester, N. Y., will soon commence to renumber her streets.

Portland, Oregon, has 233 Chinese children attending her public schools.

A bill prohibiting the sale of toy pistols has been passed by the Utah legislature.

Settlers in Pacific county, Wyoming, are going into the cranberry culture on a large scale.

Tucson, Arizona, with a population of ten thousand persons, spends \$2,000 daily for cigars.

A Massachusetts woman is suing her mother-in-law for \$25,000 damages for alleged slander.

Nashville, Tenn., is thinking of prohibiting the presence of hacks on the streets on Sunday.

A band of Zulus were among the congregation of the Buffalo Church of the Messiah last Sunday.

Henry M. Smith has been appointed superior judge at Los Angeles, Cal., vice Y. Sepulveda, resigned.

A disappointed individual committed suicide by hanging himself on a meat hook at Bloomfield, N. J., recently.

Fritz Jass, of Schenectady, N. Y., shelled a dozen large ears of corn with his teeth during seven minutes, recently.

A liberal application of seasoned birch recently broke up a gang of desperadoes at Oil City, Pa., whose ages averaged less than 10 years.

A woman in Johnston county, North Carolina, has named her newly-born child "Weed," in honor of the recent introduction of tobacco-raising in that vicinity.

The ladies of Ellenville, N. Y., threatened to boycott the business men who did not vote their temperance ticket, and consequently their candidates are elected by large majorities.

Mrs. James Keen, of Hamilton O., claims to have discovered, through the medium of a dream, the whereabouts of the body of a man who had mysteriously disappeared some weeks ago.

The Rhode Island assembly has indefinitely postponed, upon the recommendation of the judiciary committee, a bill to preserve the wages of labor to the amount of \$50 from attachment.

East Indians refuse cheese made of rennet, but a substitute has been found in a shrub common in northern India, the fermentive principle of whose seeds is said to have almost the same effect.

Nearly 1,600 acres of poplar timber land in Essex county, New York, have been purchased by a paper company, who will have the timber cut and transferred to their pulp mill at Mechanicsville, N. Y.

A permit for the most expensive office building ever erected in Chicago has been taken out by Armour, Kent and Bensley of that city. Its ground dimensions are to be 174 by 172 feet, it is to be twelve stories high, and to cost \$1,000,000 unfurnished.

There are now forty-eight lady students in the Harvard annex, and some of the professors say their average scholarship is above that of the students in the college. Two Texas girls sold land and traveled two thousand miles for the privileges which Harvard offers women.

Mr. Spurgeon does not dare to come to Florida for his health. He says: "America would kill me with kindness. I can not run that risk. It would depress me greatly to be held in honor. Abuse I can bear, but kindness shows me my own unworthiness, and sends my heart into my shoes."

The city of Paris has founded a new professional school for girls, in the Rue Bossuet. The arts of flower-making, painting on porcelain, dress-making and millinery will be taught, besides book-keeping and foreign languages. There are at present nearly two hundred pupils at this new school and the number will certainly increase.

A company of gentlemen who for sometime past have been engaged in

digging at various points along the Hudson river, New York, for the gold alleged to have been buried by the famous Capt. Kidd, have offered the United States government one-fourth of what they might find if given permission to carry on their operations upon the West Point military reservation.

On the Musselshell, Montana, a traveler saw a band of about thirty cattle surrounded by a pack of sixteen timber wolves. The cattle were standing at bay, with the calves in the center of a hollow square, which the animals were protecting from their savage enemies. Some of the wolves would make an attack on the heard of cattle in front and rear, but would be as often driven off.

The New Orleans of to-day is described as more loosely governed and more utterly regardless of justice than any other city in the union. Nearly half its 250,000 inhabitants are negroes, and of the remaining a majority are of the creole type in its various social strata. These people are opposed to progress in any way, and to oppose their downward tendency there are about forty thousand people who represent the upper strata of metropolitan life.

A noted authority on whist has been computing the value of skill to players of that game. From experiments made by matching two very skillful against two very unskillful players, and then reversing the hands and playing them over again (taking precautions to exclude playing the second time from memory), he arrives at the conclusion that, under the most favorable circumstances, power over result at whist may amount to nearly one point per rubber. But he adds that at whist clubs, where the great majority of players adhere to system, and where the personal skill of the players is above the average, the expectation on a rubber is very much less.

"Flowering the Graves."

Probably to a great number of English people the pretty Welsh custom of "flowering the graves" on Palm Sunday is entirely unknown; what the origin of this beautiful custom is we know not. On Friday and Saturday before Palm Sunday the churchyard presents a busy scene, women washing and scrubbing the tombs and headstones, men trimming the grass and shrubs. When Easter is late and flowers consequently numerous, the whole churchyard seems, as we enter on Palm Sunday, to be one mass of blossom and color, and on looking closer we find some really beautiful designs, such as "No cross, no crown," the letters "No" being made in moss, and a cross and crown being cut out in cardboard and then covered with primroses. Another which caught my eye was a tomb consisting of a gray stone cross standing on seven or eight steps; each step covered with moss, and in the moss was placed first a root of maiden-hair spleenwort, then a bunch of violets, then a root of maiden-hair spleenwort, then a bunch of primroses, and so on around each step; the cross being wreathed with some of the same flowers and ferns. The effect was prettier than can be imagined from my description. It is not unusual in Wales, at this time of the year, for people to travel twenty and thirty miles to flower the graves of their friends and relations.—*New York Home Journal.*

Famous Heirlooms at Auction.

What next? *The Times* tells us that the duke of Marlborough is about to tell the "magnificent pictures which have been the glory of Blenheim palace almost from the time when it was built." The Sunderland library has gone with the hammer, the Limoges enamels have followed them, and now the auctioneer is to dispose of the pictures. Probably they would sell the bones of the conqueror of Blenheim and Ramlies if they could but find a purchaser. Without laying too much stress on the saying of *noblesse oblige*, it is both right and proper to say that if the Marlboroughs had the slightest conception of the duties involved in their privileged position they would have lived like day laborers in the meanest hovel on the estate rather than sacrifice the famous heirlooms of their house.—*Pall Mall Gazette*

Boston contemplates spending \$386,000 this season toward the improvement of her parks

Waifs From Over-Sea.

The Swedish government intend to establish a botanico-physiological station in the North of Sweden for the study of the flora and the diseases of the crops in that part of the country.

During the week from April 16 to April 23 next the first International Ornithological Congress is to be held at Vienna, under the protectorate of Crown Prince Rudolph. Among the chief subjects to be discussed are the project of an international law for the protection of birds, and the establishment of stations for ornithological observations over the inhabited globe.

An interesting literary novelty is to be introduced at the approaching ball of the "Berlin Press." It is an elegant miniature autograph album to be presented to every lady, with charming literary contributions by Paul Heyse, Gustav Freytag, Fn. Bodenstedt, Fanny Lewald, Victor Von Scheffel, Hans Hopfen, G. von Moser, Wilhelmine von Hillern, Franz von Schonthan, Ada Christen and others.

The new American Church in Paris is rapidly approaching completion, and will probably be ready for divine service early in September. The American residents of Paris have contributed most nobly to the work, one wealthy lady having given no less a sum than sixty thousand dollars. The organ was a gift from a celebrated organ-builder of Boston. All the stained glass windows of the edifice have been already presented by different persons who wished to commemorate their deceased friends or relatives. The room for the Dorcas Society and the mortuary chapel were also special gifts. These portions of the structure only need the laying of the floors to be completed.

The "leather" guns of old, barrels of leather bound with iron hoops, are to find an imitation in cannons of silk and steel. A German inventor proposes to wrap a steel tube with silk until a diameter is attained corresponding with ballistic power which is required for the cannon. For any given diameter, silk possesses a tenacity as great as that of the best tempered steel, and has the advantage of a superior elasticity. After the tube has been made, it is centered upon a lathe which turns with a great angular velocity. Above and parallel with the tube are arranged a number of spools of silk, which cover the surface in the form of a helix, by means of guides, without leaving any space between the threads. When the desired thickness has been obtained, the silk is coated with gutta-percha or hardened caoutchouc, in order to preserve it from air and dampness. The silk being a bad conductor of heat, the gun can be fired very often without getting hot, and it is stated that it can be more easily managed, since its weight is only one-third as great as if it were all steel.

When Gordon Pasha was lately taken prisoner by the Abyssinians he completely checkmated King John. The king received his prisoner sitting on his throne, or whatever piece of furniture did duty for that exalted seat, a chair being placed for the prisoner considerably lower than the seat on which the king sat. The first thing the pasha did was to seize this chair, place it alongside that of his majesty, and sit down on it; the next to inform him that he met him as an equal, and would only treat him as such. This somewhat disconcerted his sable majesty, but on recovering himself he said, "Do you know, Gordon Pasha, that I could kill you on the spot if I liked?" "I am perfectly well aware of it, your majesty," said the pasha, "do so at once if it is your pleasure. I am ready." This disconcerted the king still more, and he exclaimed, "What! ready to be killed?" "Certainly," replied the pasha, "I am always ready to die, and so far from fearing your putting me to death, you would confer a favor on me by so doing, for you would be doing for me that which I am precluded by my religious scruples from doing for myself, you would relieve me from all the troubles and misfortunes which the future may have in store for me." This completely staggered King John, who gasped out in despair, "Then my power has no terrors for you?" "None whatever," was the pasha's laconic reply.—*New York Home Journal.*

The bail of Joel L. Finley, the spurious divorce-deed agent, at San Francisco, has been reduced from \$5,000 to \$3,000.

THE THUNDERER.

Comment Upon the Recent Death of the Editor of *The London Times*.

The news of the death of the editor of *The Times* was a surprise to most people, for few persons outside of Mr. Chenery's own circle of acquaintances knew that he was seriously unwell. But, as *The Pall Mall Gazette* remarks, the day has long gone by when the deceased, the editor of the old "Thunderer" deserved a place among the obituary notices of European sovereigns, and in the two columns of somewhat excessive eulogy which *The Times* devotes to its late chief, Mr. Chenery, it seems to me, is spoken of not wisely but too well. For if one fact is more patent and more generally recognized than another in regard to London journalism, it is that *The Times* has unmistakably lost ground since the death of Mr. Delane. Nominally the "leading journal" still, its power and influence have been obviously on the decline, while those of some of its competitors, and notably the *Standard*, have steadily grown. I am far from saying this was wholly or solely Mr. Chenery's fault. It is fairly notorious that a prominent position in *The Times* office is far from an enviable post, owing to the crosswinds which are constantly blowing there—if such a simile may be permitted. The common notion is that Mr. Walter, M. P., is sole proprietor of the paper. As a matter of fact, his interest does not amount to more than half, the remainder being divided among half a dozen different individuals. From this and other causes contradictory counsels have long prevailed, against which perhaps only a man like Delane could hope to successfully contend. Beyond this, however, there is no denying that Mr. Chenery was not a great editor. As a scholar, and especially as an Orientalist, he could hold his own with many of the best-known savants of the present day. But as a journalist he was the inferior of several London editors I could name. Speculation is of course rife as to his successor. So far I have heard three names mentioned—Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stebbing, and Mr. Escott. Of the career of the first I know nothing, but am told to-day in Printing-House square he is held in very high esteem, and is looked upon as the new man by many of the staff. Mr. Stebbing has for many years been chief assistant editor, and, as after Mr. Delane's death, it is thought there is a possibility of his promotion now. Mr. Escott's name is whispered in several quarters, and the remarkable success which has attended his journalistic career, and particularly his assumption of the editorship of *The Fortnightly Review*, would warrant our thinking that he possesses many qualifications for the post, if he cared to accept it. Whoever is chosen, it is hoped that he may have better success and a longer tenure of office than Mr. Chenery, of whom it was said a few years back that he would either kill *The Times* or *The Times* would kill him.—*London Cor. Toronto Globe.*

Cremation Again.

There is no doubt but that the advocates of the incineration of the dead are making slow but steady progress. The number of its believers is growing; so far France has been very conservative on this subject, due to the prestige of the Roman Church, which holds that there will be a resurrection of the body and that hence the corpse should not be interfered with. The great advocate of cremation in that country is M. Roehilin Schwartz, and he has had the utmost difficulty in obtaining a hearing; but he has at last gained a victory over his opponents. At the last meeting of the Society for the Propagation of Cremation, of which he is President, he stated that after receiving the report of Dr. Brouardel, the Prefect of Police will authorize all the human debris from the hospitals to be burned in a crematory, which is to be erected in a Paris cemetery. From the cremation of the debris—that is to say, the arms, legs, and *dissecta membra* of hospital patients—to the incineration of a complete corpse there is only a step.

This would surely be a sensible way of disposing of the remains at all hospitals. There will soon be a crematory on New York island. A fund has been raised for that purpose.—*Democrat's Monthly for April.*